

%, or similarly, if the copper bond pad included three elements, the amount of copper within the bond pad would reasonably be greater than 33.33 atomic weight %. Clearly, as used in this context, the term *mostly* is not indefinite.

Applicants submit that in view of the amendment made to claim 1, claim 1 and the corresponding dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,149,674 (herein referred to as Freeman). Claim 1 has been amended to include a limitation further specifying that the dielectric layer over the conductive bond pad is the passivation layer. And further, that the passivation layer is used to form the plurality of support structures. This is in contrast to Freeman, which specifically teaches that the passivation layer is patterned to include a single rectangular opening (column 5, lines 30-35). Freeman cannot anticipate the present invention because it does not teach forming support structures in the passivation layer. Rather, Freeman actually teaches away from the present invention in specifying that the passivation layer is patterned to form a *single* opening. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Freeman does not teach, motivate, or suggest forming support structures using the passivation layer as disclosed in independent claim 1. The dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that they should be allowable for at least those reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to subsequently argue the merits of dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 in future Office Actions.

Applicants submit that claims 6 and 7 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Freeman and U.S. Patent No. 4,723,197 (herein referred to as Takiar). Claims 6 and 7 depend from amended claim 1. Applicants submit that in view of the amendment made to claim 1, claims 6 and 7 should be allowable for at least the reasons that make claim 1 allowable. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to subsequently argue the merits of dependent claims 6 and 7 in future Office Actions.

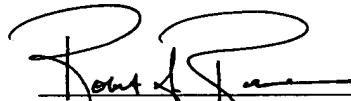
Applicants submit that claims 8 and 9 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Freeman and U.S. Patent No. 5,942,448 (herein referred to as White). Claims 8 and 9 depend from amended claim 1. Applicants submit that in view of the amendment made to claim 1, claims 8 and 9 should be allowable for at least the reasons that make claim 1 allowable.

allowable. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to subsequently argue the merits of dependent claims 8 and 9 in future Office Actions.

Applicants submit that claim 11 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Freeman and U.S. Patent No. 5,912,510 (herein referred to as Hwang). Claim 11 depends from amended claim 1. Applicants submit that in view of the amendment made to claim 1, claim 11 should be allowable for at least the reasons that make claim 1 allowable. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to subsequently argue the merits of dependent claim 11 in future Office Actions.

Applicants believe the present Application is currently in a condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of the pending claims. Contact me if there are any issues regarding this amendment or the current Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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